AN EXPLORATION OF TERRORISM REFLECTED IN THE SELECT INDIAN ENGLISH NOVELS

A Ph. D synopsis

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Introduction

We live in the world of Globalization. The world we've inherited from our forefathers has changed much over the years. The question has now become significant one that where the world has reached in which we exactly live in. We can even site a number of reasons for the globalization and consequences of man's greed. It is true that one of the man-made monsters of modern times called imperialism has given rise to the terrorism. It can be seen that people who grew up in the 1960s, has witnessed increasing criminal mentality through their eyes. The increasing visibility of terror across the globe, has disturbed peace across the world.

In her book *Troubled Testimonies: Terrorism and the English Novel in India*; Meenakshi Bharat has attempted to show increasing terrorism in India. Indian culture is diverse in nature and the Indian novel in English has shown people with their different ideologies, expectations and deeds. Terror seems to become an integral part of life the world over and Indian English novelists have dealt with the issue both on the local and international front. There are many faces of terror within India with its global connections.

As far as India is concerned, the state that has been the most affected by the terrorism and violence in recent times is the State of Jammu and Kashmir. It can be said that, terrorism in Kashmir has given the true picture of menace in front of India and world which has been created by the people of extreme thoughts. We can see the collapse of this Kashmir paradise itself due to the issue of terrorism. At the same time we can explores how the on-going conflict in Kashmir has contributed to the insecurity across the Indian subcontinent. However, it must be accepted that no one has offered a solution to the prevailing confrontational politics in Kashmir and subsequent terrorist attacks all over the India. In fact the problem can be best addressed through cultural rapprochement and not through military intervention.

Kashmir is, however, not the only backdrop against which Indian terror unfolds itself. In fact, terror in India is ever-present, especially including targets as New Delhi and Mumbai. The violence in parts of India other than Kashmir and then on its global geometry has affected world in larger amount. With the expansion of the scope of terrorism, motivations for violence also become diverse. In addition, it can be noted that, the Naxalite movement that has arisen because of a general dissatisfaction and malaise resulting from an increasing sense of marginalization by the centre has always been neglected as terrorist acts.

At this juncture, it is felt that, terrorist violence is a worldwide phenomenon. Through a detailed analysis of texts dealing with terrorism the researcher would be able to show how these works situate the issue of terrorism in a global context and thus highlight the interconnectedness of terrorist attacks the world over.

The present study deals with the trauma of terrorism in select novels namely *Red Jihad* by Sami Ahmad khan, *Jimmy the Terrorist* by Omer Ahmad, *The Association of Small Bombs* by Karan Mahajan, *God's Little Soldier* By Kiran Nagarkar, *The Terrorist* by Juggi Bhasin and *The Garden Of Solitude* By Sidharth Gigoo. The 20th century witnessed great changes in the use and practice of terror. It became the hallmark of a number of political movements stretching from the extreme right to the extreme left of the political spectrum. Technological advances, such as automatic weapons and compact, electrically detonated explosives, gave terrorists a new mobility and lethality, and the growth of air travel provided new methods and opportunities. Terrorism was virtually an official policy in totalitarian states. The best example of it can be seen as Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler and Stalin in Soviet Union. Terror has been used by both sides in anti-colonial conflicts in disputes between different national groups over possession of a contested homeland. However in the late 20th and early 21st centuries some of the most extreme and destructive organizations that engaged in terrorism possessed a fundamentalist religious ideology.

Terrorism is the systematic use of terror or violence especially as a means of cruelty for achieving a sadistic goal. It is an unlawful use or threat of violence against the state or the public as a politically motivated means of attack or coercion. It is even

the use of violent acts to frighten the people in an area as a way of trying to achieve a political goal of resisting government acts of violence committed by groups that view themselves as a victimized by some notable historical wrong deed. Although these groups have no formal connection with governments, they usually have financial and moral backing of sympathetic governments. Typically they stage unexpected attacks on civilian targets, including embassies and airliners, with the aim of sowing fear and confusion. Terrorism is not legally defined in the statutes that do exist. However, it generally shares some common elements. Terrorism involves the use of threat of violence and seeks to create fear, not just within the direct victims but among a wide audience. The degrees of fear distinguish terrorism into conventional and unconventional mode.

Conventional military forces invariably engage in psychological warfare against the enemy. Their principal means of victory is strength of arms. Similarly, unconventional terrorism often relies on acts of terror and other forms of propaganda which tries to affect large amount of people and their mindsets. Terrorism is thus the systematic use of violence to generate fear, and thereby to achieve political goals when direct military victory is not possible. This has led some social scientists to refer to terrorism as the weapon of the weak and terrorist attacks as the weapon of the weakest. In order to attack and maintain the publicity necessary to generate widespread fear, terrorists must engage in increasingly dramatic, violent and high profile attacks. These have included hijackings, hostage takings, kidnappings, car bombings and frequently, suicide bombings. It is even notable that although apparently random, the victims and locations, of terrorist attacks often are carefully selected for their shock value. Schools, shopping centers, bus and train stations, and restaurants and nightclubs have been targeted frequently because they attract large crowds and because they are places with which members of the civilian population are familiar and in which they feel at ease. The goal of terrorism generally is to destroy the public's sense of security in the places most familiar to them. Major targets sometimes also include buildings or other locations that are important economic or political symbols.

Definitions of terrorism are usually complex and controversial, and because of the inherent ferocity and violence of terrorism, the term in its popular usage has developed an intense stigma. It was first coined in the 1790s to refer to the terror used during the French Revolution by the revolutionaries against their opponents. The Jacobin party of Maximilien Robespierre carried out a Reign of Terror involving mass executions by the guillotine. Although terrorism in this usage implies an act of violence by a state against its domestic enemies, since the 20th century the term has been applied most frequently to violence aimed, either directly or indirectly, at governments in an effort to influence policy or topple an existing regime.

In short, terrorism is the unlawful use of force or violence against a person or property in order to force or threaten a government or the civilian population in persistence of political or social objectives. The terrorism is the systematic use of violence to create a general climate of fear in a population and thereby to bring about a particular political objective. Terrorism has been practiced by political organizations with both rightist and leftist objectives, by nationalistic and religious groups, by revolutionaries, and even by state institutions such as armies, and intelligence services, and police.

Political violence has always been a feature of human society, but terrorism has its roots in the politics of the nineteenth and especially twentieth centuries, as typically small groups of radicals sought to unsettle states and rally support by bombing buildings, assassinating politicians and carrying out other acts of violence. In the period following the Second World War, the main form of terrorism became that of nationalist groups or 'national liberation struggles' in the colonial and post-colonial world. Most prominently, these included the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), which fought Israel for a Palestinian homeland, and the Provisional Irish Republican Army (IRA), which fought Britain for a united and independent Ireland. There were formally similar conflicts in Spain, where ETA fought for independence for the Basque country, and in Sri Lanka, where the Tamil Tigers fought for a separate Tamil state. In each case, there was huge controversy about the legitimacy of the campaign, with the groups involved claiming to be waging a military struggle on behalf of their people against the injustice committed by

a more powerful state, and those states insisting that the groups were unlawful or criminal, and not representative of the people they claimed to be fighting for. At this time, the use of the term 'terrorist' was unclear, and it was often said that 'one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter'.

Terrorism today is perhaps even less frank. The most prominent terrorist group, al-Qaeda, does not claim a specific territory or make specific demands, and it sometimes appears to be a loose global network of Islamist terrorists rather than an organization in the traditional sense. Though its leader Osama bin Laden has called for the USA to withdraw troops from the Islamic world, and al-Qaeda terrorists are assumed to be motivated in part by the continuing plight of the Palestinians, their public pronouncements often reflect a more general hostility to the West as such. It is quite notable that, today's Islamist terrorists are often born or educated in the West, and have relatively privileged backgrounds, rather than having experienced first-hand the poverty and oppression often thought to lie behind terrorism.

There are some arguments like that of Islamism is simply a malicious ideology, distorting true Muslim teachings, and must be defeated in a battle of ideas. Others insist that it can only be tackled in tandem with the resolution of global injustices. For some others, Islamist terror is best understood not as an alien threat, but as a violent reflection of the ideological uncertainty of the West itself, as confirmed by Western states' willingness to compromise civil liberties in the fight against terrorism, undermining freedom, the very thing they claim to be defending. There are many different positions and perspectives in the debate about terrorism and how to tackle it, and each reflects different ideas about mainstream society and politics as well as the terrorists themselves.

There are some factors which have contributed to the evolution of the terrorism. First factor can be seen as the internet. International and domestic actors have developed an extensive presence on the internet through messaging plat forms and online images, videos, and publications, which facilitate the group's ability to radicalize and recruit individuals open to extremist messaging. Such message is constantly available to people participating in social networks dedicated to various causes, particular younger people comfortable with communicating in the social media environment. Secondly use of social

media has allowed both international and domestic terrorists to gain unparalleled, virtual access to people living in the vicinity. Thirdly a domestic violent extremist which is very difficult to focus on is the terrorist threat originating from overseas. Terrorism involves the systematic use of terror or violence to achieve political goals. The targets of terrorism include government officials, indentified individuals or groups and innocent eyewitnesses.

International terrorism happens to be deadly terrorist activities that had taken place overseas. In the late twentieth century, terrorism became a tool of political groups in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The growth of international terrorism led to kidnapping, hijacking of airplanes, bombing of airplanes and buildings, and armed attacks on government and public facilities.

In the late 20th century the term eco-terrorism was used to denote the acts of environmental destructions committed in order to further a political goal or as an act of war. Such as the burning of Kuwaiti oil wells by the Iraqi army during the Gulf War. The term also was applied to certain ecologically disturbing through criminal acts, intended to disrupt or prevent activates supposedly harmful to the environment.

The following novels are selected for the study which explores the concept of terrorism in its best sense.

1. Red Jihad by Sami Ahmad khan

The novel presents a grasping thriller, where he takes us all the way to future in the year 2014. The scenario is quite different than the present one because Pakistan has transformed into democratic nation, holds no grudges against India. However there are forces working against this delicate peace. A Pakistani Jhadi leader Yasser Basher travels to the red corridor and enlists the support of an Indian Naxalite commander Agyaat. The novel depicts the plan to release India's experimental intercontinental ballistic missile, on the subcontinent. As the missile changes course route, it hits Pakistan and causes collateral damage. In response, Pakistan declares war on India. As the web of politics, dishonesty and betrayal deepens, it turns out that there are larger interests at stake and

bigger players involved in this combat. The novel is a gripping thriller that explores the most reared nexus between the Jihadis and Naxals

2. Jimmy the Terrorist by Omer Ahmad

The novel, published in 2010 is about the Jamaal's story of how oppression of minorities affected his community and turned him into Jimmy the Terrorist, and this story is applicable to all minority communities. In Moazzamabad, UP, which is neither large town nor city, a young man stabs a police inspector and is beaten to death. The last words he utters are, my name is Jimmy, the Terrorist. Journalists descend upon the town harshly, and a long-time resident decides to tell a story. Jimmy alias Jamaal, son of Rafiq Ansari of Rasoolpur Mohalla, a Muslim vicinity in a Hindu town. His story goes back to the time when Moazzamabad was named, after Aurangzeb's son; when Rafiq was seduced by the wealth and refinements of Shabbir Manzil and married Shaista; when the Hanuman temple grew ten storey high and the head priest was elected mayor; when Shaista died, a mosque was brought down in Ayodhya and Rafiq became a mullah. As Jamaal grows up, watching both his father and his neighborhood change and curfew reach Moazzamabad, he is changed himself. He becomes Jimmy, one among the countless marginalized trying to find a place in the world, dimly aware that the choices that shape their lives are being made in distant places, where they have no influence.

3. The Association of Small Bombs by Karan Mahajan

It is finalist for the national book award 2016. It is a story of two brothers Tushar and Nakul Khurana, two Delhi schoolboys. When Tushar and Nakul Khurana pick up their family's television set at a repair shop with their friend Mansoor Ahmed one day in 1996, disaster strikes without warning. A bomb, one of the many "small" bombs that go off seemingly unheralded across the world ignites in the Delhi marketplace, instantly claiming the lives of the Khurana boys, to the devastation of their parents. Mansoor survives, bearing the physical and psychological effects of the bomb. After a brief stint at university in America, Mansoor returns to Delhi, where his life becomes tangled with the mysterious and charismatic Ayub, a fearless young activist whose own allegiances and beliefs are more malleable than Mansoor could imagine.

4. God's Little Soldier by Kiran Nagarkar

It is new novel published in 2006 which explores the moral universe of an extremist in a gloomy canvas of epic proportions. Gifted mathematician, stock market whiz-kid, master Guerrilla strategist, defender of the faith, Zia Khan is a god's little soldier. The protagonist of novel is a man who is self involved, confused, violent, and mean and mistaken. It is quite fascinating that it is the story of a man who has to deal with the world but cannot see clearly and is shackled by his own failings. Outlook from the backstreets of Bombay to the hallowed halls of Cambridge, from the mountains of Afghanistan to a monastery in California, the story of Zia Khan is an extraordinary one. It is a spiritual quest, about a good man gone badly and the brutalization of his soul. Born in a well-to-do, cultured Muslim family in Bombay, he crystallized into an ardent orthodoxy at Cambridge University, his beliefs leads him to a terrorist training camp in Afghanistan. The burden of rampant violence and killings, however, takes its toll on Zia. Tormented by his need for forgiveness, he is then drawn unwillingly to Christ. But peace continues to avoid him, and Zia is once again driven to seek out causes to defend and fight for, whatever be the sacrifices involved. The story of Zia is the fine combination of narratives of the extremist and the liberal and it underscores the incoherent ambiguities of good and evil, and the tragic conflicts that have riven people and nations.

5. The Terrorist by Juggi Bhasin

The novel was published in 2012. It shows when you are trained to endure the harshest of climates, the most hostile of situations, to survive where no ordinary man can.. The story moves out of flashback mode. We find a tense encounter between Murad, christened Ghazanvi and Suvir, code named Prithvi, on the Kaman Bridge in Kashmir's Uri sector. We get depiction of the Badami Bagh cantonment in Srinagar, Paharganj's seedy hotels or Gurgaon's impersonal malls. There are references to the Babri Masjid demolition, or the serial blasts in Mumbai, to inspire the narrative of the story.

6. The Garden Of Solitude By Sidharth Gigoo

The novel explores the days where there are freedom fights and restlessness amongst the people living in Kashmir. So many men and women have been killed in the process. Muslims get targeted and killed. The novel focuses on the clash between the

Pandit communities more than the Muslims. This novel can be seen as a poignant tale of a Kashmiri Pandit family driven away from the Valley in the wake of armed insurgency and political turmoil. Sridar, a young Pandit boy, is torn apart as he reluctantly leaves his home situated in the beautiful Valley along with his family. The family, like the other Pandits, settles in Jammu, where an entire generation of Pandits spends the rest of their lives suffering from a sense of loneliness and alienation. Sridar soon begins to find solace in his writings and leave Jammu to pursue full-time writing. However, his love for his homeland brings him back to Kashmir. He is now writing a book on Pandit migration. He is pained to see how the forced migration to Jammu has transformed the once prospering and happy community of Pandits into a pained and estranged populace. Troubled by his tumultuous past, he is now trying to find answers to the questions that define him. This can be seen as the first novel in English written by a Kashmiri Pandit about the political turmoil in Kashmir, migration of Pandits and their life and plight in exile.

Aims and objectives of the research

- To understand the notion of terrorism, its background, reasons, strategies, executions and consequences.
- To prepare a theoretical framework for the conceptual study of terrorism.
- To analyze and interpret the select novels in the light of notion of terrorism and examine terrorism reflected through the selected novels.
- To highlight Jihadi issues that affect on society and religion.
- To reveal significant role of corruption in terrorist activities.

Hypothesis

The disputes between various countries and communities over the lands, wealth, power, supremacy etc. have given rise to the notion of terror in contemporary era that have shaped various fictional as well as violent accounts. The issue has remained one of the most talked about matters in the media, both print and electronic and affected common men's lives in 21st century.

Data, Scope and Limitation(s):

The scope of present study is limited one. The present study will scrutinise the select novels in the light of terrorism. The present research work proposes to analyse the representative novels that render the reality by comprehending and exploring the terrorism. Though the select authors have written other literary and non-literary works they have not been considered in the present study for the analysis.

Research Methodology

The analytical, critical, and interpretative methods will be used for the present study. The focus of the study will be on the close reading of primary and secondary sources. The select novels will be analyzed and interpreted from the terrorist perspective. It will follow the theoretical framework for the analysis of selected novels and their interpretations.

Justification of Research

The select novels are well received by the critics and readers. The novels are significant as they explore the terrorist activities and their drastic effect on social political and individual life. It even raises the question of so called Jihad, and terrorists' activities. The study is significant as it touches upon the crucial issue that has influenced not only a nation but also the universe. The novels deal with national and international terrorism and host horrifying terror attacks in the western world. The novels explore how those events affected lives on the subcontinent, and started changing the course of history. One must not forget to differentiate between violence and terrorism. The present study will be helpful to understand the purpose of researcher to depict terrorism and its disastrous effect on the cosmic life.

Tentative chapter scheme

Chapter I: Introduction

Chapter II: Terrorism: a Theoretical Perspective

Chapter III: Terrorism reflected in the select Indian English Novels: Part I

Chapter IV: Terrorism reflected in the select Indian English Novels: Part II

Chapter V: Conclusions

Abstract of research topic

- The first chapter will explore the art and contribution of novelists and different aspects of their works. It will take a brief survey of literature in connection to the topic. It will also describe significance of the study aims and objectives and hypothesis.
- Second chapter, will deal with the terrorism and its theoretical perspective with brief survey based on the events described in selected novels.
- Third chapter proposes the study of terrorism in *Red Jihad* by Sami Ahmad khan, *Jimmy the Terrorist* by Omer Ahmad, *The Association of Small Bombs* by Karan Mahajan.
- The fourth chapter will analyze Terrorism in *God's Little Soldier* By Kiran Nagarkar, *The Terrorist* by Juggi Bhasin and *The Garden Of Solitude* By Sidharth Gigoo.
- Fifth chapter will be of conclusion. It will explore observations interpretations, in associations with select novels

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